

Western Kentucky University news for the Council on Postsecondary Education, April 2013

For more WKU news, visit [www.wku.edu/news](http://www.wku.edu/news).

### **WKU business, accounting programs maintain international accreditation**

WKU's business and accounting programs in the Gordon Ford College of Business have maintained international accreditation by AACSB (The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) International.

The reaffirmation keeps WKU in the top 178 collegiate schools of business in the world to have both business and accounting programs accredited, according to Dr. Jeff Katz, dean of the Gordon Ford College of Business.

"As an applied college of business, ongoing maintenance of accreditation by AACSB International confirms that students in our college receive the most relevant education and training by highly qualified faculty members who are experts in their fields," Dr. Katz said. "Our programs provide the necessary education and skills to assure long-term student success as leaders of business, active global citizens and ethical participants in society."

AACSB accreditation has been earned by less than 5 percent of the world's business programs. All business programs in the Gordon Ford College of Business have been accredited since 1982. The accounting program achieved accreditation in 2009. See

<http://wkunews.wordpress.com/2013/03/27/business-reaccreditation-2013/>



*Dr. Jeff Katz, dean of the Gordon Ford College of Business (right), and Dr. Steve Wells, chair of the Department of Accounting, announced that the business college and accounting programs have been reaccredited by AACSB.*



### **WKU enters athletic membership agreement with Conference USA**

WKU has entered into a membership agreement with Conference USA for its athletic programs beginning on July 1, 2014. Conference USA is an established, nationally prominent athletic conference that sponsors intercollegiate competition in 20 sports. Conference USA will have 16 member institutions in 2013-14, including 14 that compete in the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS).

Conference USA membership in 2013-14 will include Charlotte, East Carolina, FIU, Florida Atlantic, Louisiana Tech, Marshall, Middle Tennessee, North Texas, Old Dominion, Rice, Southern Miss, Tulane, Tulsa, UAB, UTEP and UTSA, with Charlotte and Old Dominion not competing in football.

Conference USA institutions are among the nation's best in academic performance among student-athletes, bolstered by the fact that student-athletes at league schools have a higher graduation rate than the general student population.

Conference USA enjoys significant television exposure through partnerships with FOX Sports Media Group, CBS Sports Network and ESPN. The multi-tiered selection process that is rooted in partnering with all three networks has substantially increased the number of national and regional appearances for football, men's and women's basketball, and all other conference sports.

The upcoming 2013-14 academic year will be WKU's last as a member of the Sun Belt Conference, which it joined prior to the 1982-83 academic year. Currently in its 31st year as a member of the conference, WKU has won the Vic Bubas Cup five times, given annually to the member institution gaining the most cumulative points awarded for athletic success in the league's 19 sponsored sports.

WKU President Gary Ransdell said the move gives WKU "an opportunity to be a member of a collection of great universities, reduce the geography which our teams must travel to compete, strengthen our financial capacity and better access to bowl games and postseason play." See

[http://www.wkusports.com/ViewArticle.dbml?DB\\_OEM\\_ID=5400&ATCLID=207019336](http://www.wkusports.com/ViewArticle.dbml?DB_OEM_ID=5400&ATCLID=207019336)

### WKU junior receives scholarship to study at Cambridge

James “Ben” Hussung, a WKU junior religious studies major from Bowling Green, is a recipient of a study abroad scholarship from the Kentucky Branch of the English-Speaking Union. This summer, he will study literature at the University of Cambridge in Cambridge, England, UK. Additionally, Hussung will spend a week in London and is planning his own travels around Europe.

In addition to funding from the ESU, Hussung is the recipient of a Jarve Endowment Scholarship, a grant program funded through a generous gift from WKU alumnus Jacque Hughes Jarve and her husband John. Jarve Endowment funding is awarded to students who show promise in international and research endeavors. Hussung has also been tapped to receive funding from the WKU Office of Enrollment Management and from the WKU Office of International Programs.

The mission of the ESU, promoting scholarship in an ever-burgeoning global community, is directly fulfilled through the award program, which provides funding for students who desire to study English literature, history or social sciences at Oxford, Cambridge or Edinburgh University. See

<http://wkunews.wordpress.com/2013/04/02/osd-hussung/>



*James “Ben” Hussung*



*Dr. Margaret M. “Peggy” Gripshover*

### WKU faculty member appointed State Geographer

Dr. Margaret M. “Peggy” Gripshover, associate professor of geography in WKU’s Department of Geography and Geology, has been appointed as State Geographer for the Commonwealth of Kentucky by Gov. Steve Beshear.

Dr. Gripshover is the first woman to hold the position, which was created by the General Assembly in 1984. Her term will expire on Jan. 1, 2014. In the past, the State Geographer has been called upon to consult with state officials and planning agencies on such issues as boundaries, mapping, land use, as well as serve as a geographic resource for educators.

Dr. Gripshover joined the WKU faculty as a cultural geographer in 2009. She earned her Ph.D. in geography from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in geography from Marshall University.

Known as “Dr. G.” to her students, she teaches courses in the Geography of Kentucky, Geography of the South, World Regional Geography, Cultural Geography, Economic Geography, and Urban Geography. See <http://wkunews.wordpress.com/2013/02/26/state-geographer/>

### WKU student named nation’s top Army engineer cadet in 2013

The Society of American Military Engineers has selected WKU Cadet Sean Tedtaotao as the nation’s Top Army Engineer Cadet for 2013.

Tedtaotao, a senior mechanical engineering major and military science minor from Guam, competed with fellow Army cadets who represented the other 273 host ROTC programs from around the country.

After evaluating the nation’s best engineering cadets on their leadership accomplishments, academic rigor and ability to serve as a productive member of a team, Tedtaotao was ranked No. 1 in the nation. See

<http://wkunews.wordpress.com/2013/03/12/cadet-award/>



*Sean Tedtaotao*